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CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1958

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GATE HOUSE,

CHEPSTOW, MON.

OCTOBER, 1959

TEL. NO. 2657

CHEPSTOW      URBAN      DISTRICT      COUNCIL

Chairman                      Mr. Councillor A.J. James. J.P.

Vice-Chairman              Mr. Councillor W.A. Bevan.

C O U N C I L L O R S

Mrs. M. Collins, J.P.	Mr. A.T.B. O'Neill, J.P.
Mrs. E.F. Hewetson, J.P.	Mrs. A.M. Palmer.
Mr. W.G. James.	Mr. W.J. Penney.
Mr. T.F.H. Lang.	Mr. H.R. Pinchard.
Mr. G.T. Meddins.	Mr. P.H. Price.
Mr. C.E.A. Morgan.	Mr. S.J. Ryan.

OFFICERS      OF      THE      COUNCIL.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer	Mr. A. Gill.
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector	Mr. E.M. Taylor.
Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. D.J. Turner.
Rating Officer and Collector	Mr. W.A. Hood.
Medical Officer of Health	Dr. E.N. Dowell.

CHEPSTOW      URBAN      DISTRICT      COUNCIL.

Gate House,

CHEPSTOW, Mon.

October, 1959.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the  
Chepstow Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit by Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary  
Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st. December, 1958.

The health of the district is satisfactory.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Taylor and  
Mr. Turner for their help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E.N.Dowell.

Medical Officer of Health.



Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres).    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    1,350.

Population (1931 Census)

Estimated mid-year population.	...	...	...	...	5,940.
Number of inhabited houses.	...	...	...	...	1,650.
Rateable Value (31st. March 1958)	...	...	...	...	£63,354.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	...	...	...	...	£242. 18. 6d.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	55	48	103
Illegitimate	2	3	5

There were III live births in 1957 and 81 in 1952.

Still Births

No still births were notified.  
There were 2 still births in 1957.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1		1

The following gives a list of infant deaths under one year of age, giving age at and cause of death:-

(i) Male.                      3 days.                      I.a. Spina Bifida.

In 1954 there was one death of an infant under one year of age.  
In 1952 there were 5 deaths.

### DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths.	76	44	120

In 1951, 1952, and 1957, the number of deaths was 59. The highest number of deaths in the last ten years, excluding the present year, was 98 in 1953.

The present high figure can be partly explained by G.R.O. Circular (M.O.H.) No. 2/1958, dated 10th. January, 1958. From 1st. January, 1958, a death in a chronic sick hospital or mental hospital will be assigned to the area of occurrence only if the deceased has been there for six months or more. If the deceased has been there less than six months, the death will be transferred to the area of usual residence, if any.

28 deaths registered were deaths in the above mentioned group. 18 of these deaths occurred at Regent House.

For the seventh consecutive year there were no deaths attributed to pregnancy, childbirth, or abortion.

In 1953 there were 3 deaths attributed to malignant disease of the lung.

Of the total deaths, 31 were 70 years or over at the time of death.

Table I gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

The Natural Increase ( the number of births exceeds the number of deaths ) - 16. The increase in 1957 was 52.

## GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

### DIPHTHERIA

For the sixth consecutive year there were no cases notified.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year 50 children were immunised against Diphtheria. Of this number 44 were born in 1957 and 3 in 1958.

Of the 111 children born in 1957, only 47 were immunised against Diphtheria by the end of the year. Probably the return to the use of a combined vaccine for immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough might improve the statistics. It would mean three injections and not five as at present.

Of the 108 children born in 1956, 58 were immunised by the end of 1957.

As in 1956 and 1957, vaccinations and immunisations were not discontinued during the year owing to the occurrence of Poliomyelitis.

### VACCINATIONS (Smallpox)

During the year, 46 vaccinations against smallpox were carried out. Of this number, 32 were babies born in 1958.

### SCARLET FEVER

One case was notified. In 1952, 8 cases were notified.

### MEASLES

Two cases were notified. In 1957 no cases were notified. It is surprising to find that during the year 57 children were excluded from the Infants Schools on account of Measles.

I am more convinced than ever that the majority of doctors have given up notifying Measles.

### WHOOPING COUGH

As in 1957, no cases were notified.

During the year 47 children were excluded from the Infants Schools on account of Whooping Cough.

In 1958, 66 children were immunised against Whooping Cough, and of this number, 60 were in the age group 0-4 years.



### POLIOMYELITIS

As in 1955 and 1956, no cases were notified. In 1957, two cases were notified and these occurred in one family.

403 children were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis during the year. Of this number, 236 were carried out at Boverton House Clinic and 167 at Larkfield Grammar School.

### DYSENTERY

Only two cases were notified and these occurred in one of the hospitals of the district. In 1956 there were 21 notifications.

### FOOD POISONING

As in 1957 no cases of Food Poisoning were notified.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The following were the notifications of primary cases received during the year:-

(i) Male.	age. 48 years.	Lungs.
(ii) Female.	age. 25 years.	Lungs.

In 1957 there were 9 notifications of primary cases. In 1956 there was only one notification.

55 children from Larkfield Grammar School and Portwall Secondary Modern School whose ages were 13/14 years were vaccinated against Tuberculosis.

A Mass Radiography Survey was carried out in July at the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., the Dendix Brush Co., and the Red and White Services Establishments and of the 678 examined, only 5 were referred to the Chest Physician for further investigation.

At the same time a similar survey was carried out at one of the hospitals, and of the 57 Nursing Staff and 89 other Staff, not one was referred to the Chest Physician for further investigation.



ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN  
TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>CASES NOTIFIED</u> <u>AGE GROUPS</u>								TOTAL All ages.
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 and over		
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Interic Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Iethorgica.	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Neonatorum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles and	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	
German Measles.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL:-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	5	

DEATHS IN CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT 1958

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	7	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	8
Coronary disease, angina.	9	2
Hypertension with heart disease.	5	5
Other heart disease.	15	14
Other circulatory disease.	8	2
Influenza.	1	-
Pneumonia.	2	1
Bronchitis.	6	3
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-
Congenital malformations.	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	2
All other accidents.	3	1
Suicide.	-	1
All causes.	76	44

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1958.

WATER

The water supply to the district is supplied by a private Company, and is derived from three sources in the Chepstow Park area within the Chepstow Rural District. All water is subjected to chlorination by the "Chloramine" process. The supply is adequate and routine samples are taken for both chemical and bacteriological examination.

Thirty-one samples taken during the year showed that the water was suitable for a public and domestic supply.

The water is not subject to plumbo-solvency.

SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS

There are no swimming pools within the area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Extensions were made during the year to the Council's sewerage system at Bulwark, in connection with the Council's new housing site.

The cleansing and repair of choked or defective drainage systems, both public and private, is demanded immediately upon receipt of complaint or noted during inspections.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Almost the whole of the dwelling houses within the Urban District are provided with waterclosets connected up to the Council's sewerage system. A small number of dwellings are drained into cesspools, but as these are situated in the sparsely populated parts of the district, no trouble is experienced.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic and trade refuse is collected twice weekly from all premises with a more frequent collection for the business premises in the town centre.

Disposal is effected by tipping in a large depression adjacent to the Chepstow Racecourse, and which should meet the needs of the district for many years.

## HOUSING

A schedule has been prepared, in connection with the Housing Survey required by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, of properties which come within the provisions of Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses, and whilst the Council have not yet been in a position to commence their "Slum Clearance Programme", it is hoped that within a minimum period the rehousing of tenants from such properties will be practicable.

In considering the schedule which was submitted to the Minister, one must realise, of course, that the schedule contained only proposals of properties to be dealt with and not binding undertakings. In effect, therefore, the information required was an indication of the size of the problem and how soon the Authority proposed to deal with its own problem. In two or three years the character of a house or an area may change for the better or the worse and a rapid appreciation of today may have to be revised when the opportune time arrives.

## INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES

No applications were made to the Council for a grant under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act. It is to be regretted that owners of properties which lack modern amenities do not seek aid, as only in this way will a large number of substantially built houses lacking modern amenities be available for letting to younger married couples.

Regular inspection of houses owned by the Local Authority again continued during the year, selected areas being chosen from time to time and each house visited and inspected. Generally the houses were maintained in a very good condition, and the general state of cleanliness was found to be excellent.

## FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

The regular inspection of food premises was maintained during the year and I am pleased to report that all food premises have an adequate supply of hot water available on the premises.

Satisfactory co-operation has been achieved with the food traders in this respect and there were complete alterations to several premises during the year, resulting in a higher standard of hygiene being able to be maintained.

It is pleasing to note that, due to the co-operation received from all persons concerned, no newspaper is used in any food premises within the Urban Area, for wrapping or containing any open food, other than uncooked vegetables.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY

The whole of the milk supplied within the district is imported, all consisting of bottled milk of the designated grades.

A number of samples of milk were abstracted from retailers during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination, and in each case satisfied the prescribed test,

Samples of milk were also submitted for biological examination, all of which gave satisfactory results.

Animal inoculation tests on three raw samples of milk yielded negative results to Tuberculosis.

### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949-54.

Number of Licences Issued	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dealers Licence to retail Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealers Licence to retail T.T. Past. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licence to retail Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licence to retail T.T. Past. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2

### ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947 to 1952.

### REGISTRATION OF PREMISES

Manufacturers (Cold Mix)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	16



# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

The under-mentioned visits were carried out during the year in connection with the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts:-

## PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Insp. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	12	8	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	17	-	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	3	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL:-		29	8	-	-	

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

M/o line No.	(1)	M/o line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	M/o line No.
			Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.		
(2)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(8)
4	Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4					4
5	Overcrowding (S.2)	5					5
6	Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6					6
7	Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7					7
8	Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8					8
9	Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9					9
10	(a) Insufficient	10					10
11	(b) Unsuitable or defective	11					11
12	(c) Not separate for sexes	12					12
	Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).						
	TOTAL:-						



# NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	12
Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	20
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil

## GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Council house repairs, rehousing etc.	...	...	...	463
Drainage	...	...	...	374
Factories	...	...	...	8
Rodent Infestation	...	...	...	65
Verminous premises	...	...	...	4
Infectious disease	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	98
Food Shops	...	...	...	167
Bake-houses	...	...	...	2
Visits re: Unsound Food	...	...	...	25
Water and Milk Samples	...	...	...	44
Public Utilities Street Works	...	...	...	23
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	...	42
Interviews	...	...	...	14
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	18
Hotels	...	...	...	6
Food Delivery vans, Ice-cream vans etc.	...	...	...	11
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	77
Treatment for Cockroaches	...	...	...	5
Public Health Act 1936. Section 60				
HOUSING (Public Health & Housing Acts)	...	...	...	21
HOUSING (No. of inspections made for that purpose)	...	...	...	273
Smoke observations	...	...	...	11
Means of Escape in Case of fire from				
Certain High Buildings	...	...	...	7
Visits in connection with Applications for				
Certificate of Disrepair under the Rents Act 1957	...	...	...	64

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	50	3	8	421	65	-
Number inspected	50	3	8	421	65	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcass condemned.	-	1	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, other than Tub- erculosis and cysticerci.	4.0	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	2	-
Cysticercosis: Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	3.07	-

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION (Contd.)

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-				

Number of visits to Slaughterhouse    ...    ...    ...    98

In addition, routine visits were made to butchers shops to ensure that all meat consignments from outside the district had been inspected at their source of origin.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-
Meat ... ..	-	-	-	-
Offal ... ..	-	-	-	14
<u>TOTAL:-</u>	-	-	-	14
<u>NON-TUBERCULOSIS</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	4	1	12
Meat ... ..	-	-	-	-
Offal ... ..	-	-	-	10
<u>TOTAL:-</u>	-	4	1	22
Total amount - Tuberculosis and Non-Tuberculosis:-	-	4	2	8
<u>OTHER FOODS</u>				
Pork Pies ... ..	-	-	-	3
Fish ... ..	-	1	2	12
Beef sausage ... ..	-	-	-	6
Pork sausage ... ..	-	-	1	2
Sugar ... ..	-	-	-	4
Cheese ... ..	-	-	2	1
Beef ... ..	-	1	2	17
Cooked Ham ... ..	-	2	-	16
<u>TOTAL:-</u>	-	6	1	5
TINS ... ..	...	...	...	560

### CATTLE MARKET

The Council control the Cattle Market, markets being held on alternate Mondays.

Animals entering the Market during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1958, were as follows:-

<u>CATTLE</u>	<u>CALVES</u>	<u>SHEEP</u>	<u>PIGS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1,005	526	7,609	2,390	11,530



